

great, and the spirit of America is incredibly strong.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. The attacks on America were intended to break our spirit. But the evildoers failed. It's a fabulous land; we're lucky to live in it. It's a land—they have stirred a mighty nation to action, and the world is seeing what we're made out of. The world sees our resolves and is willing to follow. The world sees our commitment to freedom, as it impressed. The world sees our compassion toward one another, as neighbor helps neighbor, as neighbor grieves with neighbor, as people from all across our country want to hold the families who have been endangered—and have been hurt in their arms.

The world sees a nation at prayer, Christian, Jew, and Muslim, alike, praying for strength to an almighty and merciful God. The world is beginning to see the best of this great land. The world is beginning to understand why we all treasure America so much—our values, our freedom, and the strength of the American character.

No, they thought they attacked America and hurt us. We are stronger than ever, and we will prove it to the world.

Thank you all for coming. God bless America. And now it is my honor to introduce the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Illinois' own, Denny Hastert.

Mr. Speaker.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. on the tarmac at O'Hare International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Capt. Craig Eldridge, pilot, United Airlines; Michele Smith, flight attendant, American Airlines; Gov. George H. Ryan of Illinois; Mayor Richard M. Daley of Chicago; Herbert D. Kelleher, chairman of the board and chairman of the executive committee, Southwest Airlines; James E. Goodwin, chairman and chief executive officer, United Airlines; Donald J. Carty, president and chief executive officer, American Airlines, Inc.; George Mikelsons, chairman and founder, American Trans Air; and Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

September 28, 2001

President Bush. Your Majesty, welcome back.

King Abdullah. Thank you.

President Bush. It's great to see you. I look forward to our discussions. Jordan is a strong, strong friend of America. And right after September 11th, one of the early messages I received was from His Majesty, expressing the condolences of the Jordanian people, as well as his own personal condolences.

I'm so pleased with our cooperative—the cooperation we have in fighting terror. I have assured His Majesty that our war is against evil, not against Islam. There are thousands of Muslims who proudly call themselves Americans, and they know what I know—that the Muslim faith is based upon peace and love and compassion, the exact opposite of the teachings of the Al Qaida organization, which is based upon evil and hate and destruction.

And finally, as a welcoming gift, it is my honor to present you with a pen. This is no ordinary pen, since it's the pen I used to sign the Free Trade Agreement with Jordan this morning. At long last, we have together accomplished one of your main objectives, in terms of economic cooperation, which is the Free Trade Agreement.

I'm proud of the actions of our leadership in the House and the Senate, from both political parties, that recognize the importance of trade with Jordan. And so, Your Majesty, it's now officially the law, and here's the pen that signed it.

King Abdullah. Thank you very much, sir. Very grateful.

President Bush. Welcome back to the Oval Office.

King Abdullah. Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for seeing us today. Obviously, I wish our meeting was under better circumstances, but obviously,

we're here to give our full, unequivocal support to you and to the people of America. And we will stand by you in these very difficult times. And we're proud of our friendship. We're proud of the relations we've had with your country over many, many years, as far back as his late Majesty, King Hussein.

And it's in difficult times like this that true friends must stand with each other, and we'll be by your side, and we'll be there to support you. And I'm here to see what we can do to help.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

We'll take a few questions.

Q. Mr. President—

President Bush. You're after the retirement lady. [Laughter]

Q. I'm now the retirement lady. I feel very old. [Laughter]

President Bush. Well, once you leave the White House, we view it as retirement. But go ahead. [Laughter]

Saudi Arabia

Q. What's your reaction to the Saudis' announcement that we can—that the U.S. can use airbases? And also, do you feel the military deployment is adequate; do you feel comfortable with where it is?

President Bush. Well, first, we will not be discussing any of the—our military plans. It is very important for the American people to know that any public discussion of military or intelligence matters could jeopardize any mission that we may be thinking about.

Secondly, that I am most pleased with the cooperation we're getting in the Middle East. Clearly, the cooperation with our friend the Jordanians is strong and powerful, and we're united—but the Saudis, as well. Not only are they helping stabilize Pakistan, which is a very important part of our diplomatic efforts, they are also cooperating with us in terms of any military planning we might be doing. And I'm really pleased.

I had very good discussions—I know the King has, as well—with our Saudi Arabian friends.

Ron [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Russian Experience in Afghanistan

Q. Mr. President, thank you. Have you had any chance to study the long and difficult

conflict that the Russians had in Afghanistan? And if so, what, if anything, did you learn that might be helpful in the conflict you have coming ahead?

President Bush. Well, one of the things we will do is enforce the doctrine, part of the doctrine that says, if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as a terrorist. And in my speech to the Nation, I laid out the conditions that we expect the current Government of Afghanistan to follow.

I am fully aware of the difficulties the Russians had in Afghanistan. Our intelligence people and our State Department people are also fully aware. It is very hard to fight a conventional war—a guerrilla war with conventional forces. And we understand that. That's why I have explained to the American people that the new war on terror is going to be a different war. It will be fought on a variety of fronts. It will be fought on a financial front. It will require the best of intelligence and the sharing of intelligence. There may or may not be a conventional component to it.

I said loud and clear, sometimes people will be able to see what we do on the television screens. Other times the American people won't be able to see what we're doing. But make no mistake about it; we're in hot pursuit. We're going to enforce the doctrine. We're going to be diligent and patient and determined to bring people to justice and to rout out terrorist activity around the world.

And so there have been lessons learned in the past, and our government is very aware of those lessons.

Jim [Jim Angle, FOX News].

Afghanistan/Middle Eastern Response

Q. Mr. President, if I may, for Your Highness, how difficult is it for Middle Eastern nations to unite against someone who claims to be speaking and acting on behalf of Islam?

And Mr. President, what's your reaction to word today that the Taliban says it has now located Usama bin Laden and has delivered an invitation to him to leave the country?

President Bush. First of all—I'll answer first, and then Your Majesty. First, there is no negotiations with the Taliban. They heard what I said. And now they can act. And it's

not just Mr. bin Laden that we expect to see and brought to justice; it's everybody associated with his organization that's in Afghanistan. And not only those directly associated with Mr. bin Laden, any terrorist that is housed and fed in Afghanistan needs to be handed over. And finally, we expect there to be complete destruction of terrorist camps. That's what I told them; that's what I mean. And we expect them—we expect them to not only hear what I say but to do something about it.

And I want to tell His Majesty what I said the other day, and then he can respond to your question. The Al Qaida people don't represent Islam, as far as America is concerned. They represent evil. They're evil people. And that's not the Muslim faith that I know and understand, nor is it the Muslim faith of millions of Americans who are proud and devout Muslims.

King Abdullah. Well, sir, as the President so well put it, what these people stand for is completely against all the principles that Arab Muslims believe in. And so, on those principles alone, I think it will be very, very easy for people to stand together. As the President said, this is a fight against evil, and the majority of Arabs and Muslims will ban together with our colleagues all over the world to be able to put an end to this horrible scourge of international terrorism. And you'll see a united front.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Usama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Proclamation 7471—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2001

September 28, 2001

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For more than 30 years, the United States has annually celebrated the rich history and cultural traditions of our Nation's Hispanic American people. National Hispanic Herit-

age Month provides us an opportunity to express deep appreciation to Hispanic Americans for their countless contributions to our society and to pay tribute again to America's distinctive diversity.

Since our Nation's founding, Hispanic Americans have played an integral role in our country's exceptional story of success. Hispanic Americans served with heroism in every major American military conflict. The Continental Army benefited from the valor of Bernardo de Gálvez, who led his frequently outnumbered troops to numerous victories against the British. Luis Esteves organized the first Puerto Rico National Guard and rose through the ranks of the U.S. Army to become a distinguished Brigadier General. And 38 Hispanics have earned our Nation's highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor. The United States academic and scientific communities benefited from the contributions of Hispanic Americans like physicist Luis Walter Alvarez, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1986. Business leaders like Roberto Goizueta have had a positive effect on our Nation's economy; and many Hispanics have greatly influenced America's artistic, legal, and political communities.

Today, Hispanic culture continues to shape the American experience. More than 30 million Americans, about 1 in 8 people in the United States, claim Hispanic origin. They contribute to every walk of contemporary American life, while simultaneously preserving the unique customs and traditions of their ancestors. All Americans, regardless of national origin, celebrate the vibrant Hispanic American spirit that influences our Nation's art, music, food, and faiths. We also celebrate the practices of commitment to family, love of country, and respect for others, virtues that transcend ethnicity, reflect the American spirit, and are nobly exemplified in the Hispanic American community.

The strong ties that Hispanic Americans maintain with their ancestral homeland remind us that the United States must pursue robust relations with its trading partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. The future of our hemisphere is closely tied to these relationships, and improving trade will play a vital role in building important links with our